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# RECORD OF POLITICAL EVENTS.

[From November 1, 1889, to May 1, 1890.]

## I. THE UNITED STATES.

### I. THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT.

**FOREIGN RELATIONS.** — **The Samoan treaty**, negotiated between the United States, Great Britain and Germany in June, 1889, was ratified by the Senate on the 3d of February, 1890. The basis of the instrument is a recognition of the independence and neutrality of the Samoan Islands. It is provided that Malietoa be restored to the throne, and that his successor shall be chosen in accordance with the laws of the natives. For the determination of all questions arising under the treaty, as well as a very wide range of controversies involving foreigners and natives, a court is established, presided over by the "Chief Justice of Samoa," who is to be appointed by agreement of the three powers, or, if they cannot agree, by the King of Sweden. Lesser authorities are appointed for the determination of special matters of difficulty, and an elaborate code of regulations is laid down to govern the intercourse between foreigners and the natives. — A new **extradition treaty with Great Britain**, negotiated by Secretary Blaine and the present British minister, Sir Julian Pauncefote, was ratified by the Senate on the 18th of February, 1890. Nine new crimes are brought within the scope of the process of extradition, *viz.* manslaughter, counterfeiting, embezzlement and cognate offences, fraud by agent or corporation officer, perjury, rape, abduction and kidnapping, burglary, piracy, several crimes on the high seas, and offences against the laws of both countries for the suppression of slavery and slave-trading. Offences of a political character are specifically excluded from the operation of the treaty; and, in any doubtful case, the country in whose jurisdiction the fugitive is at the time shall decide finally. Article three provides that no person shall be triable for an offence other than that for which he was surrendered, until he shall have had an opportunity to return to the country which gave him up. The Senate made certain amendments to the document as submitted, defining manslaughter, which is not precisely the same in the two countries, and dropping from the list of offences that of obtaining money under false pretences. An important difference between this treaty and that rejected by the Senate in President Cleveland's term is the absence in the present treaty of the clause contained in the earlier which provided for extradition in case of "malicious injuries to property, whereby the life of any person shall be endangered, if such injuries constitute a crime according to the laws of both the high contracting parties." The treaty went into effect April 4. — The difficulties with Canada in reference to the **seal-fishing in Behring Sea** have been under consideration between the British minister and the State department, though

no official announcement as to results has been made. Sir Charles Tupper, the Canadian High Commissioner at London, arrived in Washington in the latter part of February to take part in the negotiations. — **The International Marine Conference** at Washington, which was in session when this RECORD opens, concluded its work December 31. No official report of its conclusions has been made public; for the delegates of each nation will report to their government in the form of recommendations, and legislation will be necessary to give effect to these. All but five of the sittings of the conference were devoted to the discussion of rules for avoiding collisions at sea, in order to eliminate all confusion and uncertainty from the code. Other subjects considered and passed upon were: Internationally uniform systems of buoyage, of surveying vessels and of signals for giving notice of approaching storms. The proposition for a permanent international marine commission was not approved. — **The International American Conference**, or "Pan-American," as it is popularly called, was in regular session from November 18 to April 19. The following recommendations were adopted by the conference: That, for the prevention of epidemics, uniform sanitary regulations be adopted by all the nations, on the basis of those established by previous sanitary conferences among the states of South America; that the treaties on international patent and trade-mark rights, agreed to by the countries of South America at the recent congress at Montevideo, be subscribed to by the remaining nations of the hemisphere; that the nations bordering on the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea enter upon some arrangement for establishing first-class steamship service between their several ports by government aid; that on the Atlantic coast government aid be given to steamship lines between the United States and Rio Janeiro, Montevideo and Buenos Ayres, and on the Pacific, to lines between San Francisco and Valparaiso, touching at intermediate points — all subsidies to be under conditions carefully drawn; that all possible expedients be adopted to facilitate the transmission of merchandise through one country to another, and that the customs administration be as far as possible simplified and made uniform; that reciprocity treaties be negotiated between the various American republics, each conceding the free introduction of the peculiar products of each; that a monetary convention of the powers concerned be held within a year to arrange a system of uniform coinage; and that the metric system of weights and measures be uniformly adopted. Not all of these recommendations, however, were in a sufficiently definite form to amount to more than a general expression of opinion.

**CONGRESS.** — The Fifty-first Congress began its first session December 2. **The organization of the House of Representatives** was effected by the choice of Mr. Reed, of Maine, as speaker, Mr. McPherson, of Pennsylvania, as clerk, and the minor officers generally as determined upon by the Republican caucus. — **The President's Message** announced general goodwill and cordiality in our relations with other governments. Whatever questions were pending were declared to be in process of satisfactory adjustment. In domestic affairs, general prosperity was announced. The surplus in the treasury for the last fiscal year, above all provision for the sinking fund, was \$57,470,129.59. For the ensuing year the estimated surplus is \$43,569,522.30.

The President recommended immediate action by Congress toward reducing treasury receipts so as to prevent the accumulation of surplus funds. The expedients necessary to get the money back into circulation were often of doubtful propriety, and the loaning of public funds to banks without interest he especially considered to be an unauthorized and dangerous policy. Such deposits now outstanding should be withdrawn and applied to the purchase of bonds. A revision of the tariff law was recommended, both as to administration and schedules. Assurance should be given, however, that necessary changes should be so made as not to impair the just and reasonable protection of our home industries. The free list might be extended by the addition of articles not competing injuriously with domestic products, and the internal taxes upon tobacco and upon spirits used in the arts might be removed. Upon the currency question, the President expressed himself fearful as to the permanence of the existing harmony between silver and gold, but was not prepared to discuss fully the proposition of the secretary of the Treasury. Appropriations were recommended for adequate coast defence and harbor improvement. The President recommended that Congress grant pensions to all honorably discharged soldiers and sailors who are dependent upon their own labor for maintenance and, by disease or casualty, are incapacitated from earning it. He reported progress in the way of civil service reform, especially through making public the list of eligibles and through the extension of the law to the railway mail service, and asked for additional appropriations for the commission. National aid to education was recommended, especially for regions where the emancipated slaves burdened the taxpayers. Mr. Harrison saw no stronger constitutional objection to such aid than to what had already long been given in the form of land-grants. He thought it best, however, to limit the aid to an annual appropriation, so as not to tempt the local authorities unduly to postpone assuming the whole burden themselves. The race question was touched on another side by the recommendation that Congress consider measures to secure to all the people a free exercise of the right of suffrage and every other civil right under the constitution. An extension of federal control over the elections was the method suggested. The closing recommendation of the message was that of such liberal appropriations for the ocean mail service as might encourage the establishment of American steamship lines to Central and South America, China and Japan. — The calm consideration of public business was seriously interrupted at the very opening of the session by a **defalcation in the office of the sergeant-at-arms** of the House. That official, as the medium for the payment of the members' salaries, acts as a sort of private banker for the congressmen, and the flight of his cashier with \$72,000 of the funds in his care, including many unpaid salaries, raised important questions of responsibility for the deficit. A special committee appointed to investigate the whole matter reported, on January 14, a bill making an appropriation to cover all deficiencies in amounts due to members. It was held that, as the sergeant-at-arms was constructively a disbursing officer of the government, the government was responsible for the salary money till actually paid over to the members. This, however, did not cover the question of private deposits, of which it was proved that there were many. After an animated debate, the House rejected the bill. At the

same time, a proposal to send the claims to the courts for decision was also rejected, and the sufferers were left without relief.—The complete list of **House committees** was announced December 21. The chairmen of the most important are: McKinley of Ohio, Ways and Means; Cannon of Illinois, Appropriations; Kelley of Pennsylvania (succeeded at his death by Burrows of Michigan), Manufactures; Dorsey of Nebraska, Banking and Currency; and Hitt of Illinois, Foreign Affairs.—On January 29 an important conflict arose in the House as to **the speaker's power to count a quorum**. The Committee on Rules had not yet reported, and, as the Republican majority was very small, the inevitable absences left it in the power of the Democrats to obstruct legislation by refusing to vote. On the day mentioned, a certain vote, by roll-call, stood 161 yeas and 2 nays, revealing no quorum, though the seats on the Democratic side were well filled. Speaker Reed thereupon, with a short explanatory statement, announced that, having seen many of the silent members before him and having caused record to be made of the fact, he ruled that there was a quorum present within the meaning of the constitution. The minority appealed from the ruling, and insisted very strongly on the principle that the result of the roll-call was the only constitutional evidence of a member's presence. They argued that the will of the member, for which he was responsible only to his constituents, was conclusive as to the member's participation in the business of the House, and maintained that to vest in any one man the arbitrary power to count a quorum would open the way to grave scandal. The unbroken precedent of the House was admitted to be with the minority. The speaker, however, resting upon the necessities of the public business and the inherent absurdity of a member's being simultaneously present and absent, carried through his plan, though not without several days of great disorder. The minority felt it an especial grievance that so radical a change of practice should be made by arbitrary act of the speaker rather than through regular action of the House, as expressed in its rules. That this feeling prevailed among the majority also seems evident from the fact that the long-delayed report of the Committee on Rules was presented early in February. As finally adopted on the 14th, the code presents two new and effective **restraints on filibustering**. The speaker is authorized to have members whom he sees in the House put on the journal as present for the purposes of a quorum, and to refuse to put motions which he deems offered merely for purposes of delay.—Little **legislation** of importance has been completed at the time this RECORD closes. A joint resolution has been passed congratulating the people of Brazil on the adoption of popular government. The Blair Educational Bill, which had been passed by the Senate on two previous occasions, was defeated in that body after a long discussion, by a vote of 32 to 36. The Senate passed an Anti-Trust Bill establishing severe penalties for combinations of citizens or corporations of different states or of the United States and foreign countries, designed to prevent industrial or commercial competition; and the Dependent Pension Bill, giving \$12 per month to indigent veterans unable to earn a support. Both these measures suffered either amendment or substitution in the House and the end has not been reached. The House has passed bills admitting Wyoming and Idaho as states. On the latter measure the Democrats ab-

stained from voting, and forced the speaker to count a quorum, for the purpose, as they said, of testing the constitutionality of the new rule. Important measures that have passed through the committee stage, in addition to those mentioned below under **TARIFF** and **CURRENCY**, are: A bill to amend the Interstate Commerce Act, abolishing "ticket-scalpers" and making many modifications in details of the law; and two Federal Elections Bills, one in the House, placing Congressional elections under control of the federal district judges, and introducing the main features of the Australian ballot system, and another in the Senate, extending the present system of supervisors and marshals under direction of the circuit court judges.

**THE TARIFF.**—An important decision was rendered by the United States Supreme Court on January 6, involving the construction of the tariff law. There had been a long standing doubt as to whether silk ribbons used for hat trimmings should pay 50 per cent duty as silk or 20 per cent as hat trimmings. The government finally settled into the practice of demanding 50 per cent. Importers protested, and the matter finally was decided in their favor as above. The decision rendered necessary the restitution to merchants of some \$6,000,000 collected under the illegal construction. The protests of the silk manufacturers against the duty decided to be the true one resulted in the prompt passage, on January 31, of a bill putting ribbons in the category of other silk goods at the 50 per cent rate. — In accordance with the President's recommendation of revision of the administrative features of the customs laws, what is known as the **McKinley bill** was passed in the House of Representatives on January 25. The measure in general had the approval of all interested parties, except certain of the provisions in reference to undervaluation. The penalties for such offences were made more severe, and the decision of an appraiser, if confirmed by a board of three appraisers, was made final as to the facts in any case of disputed values. An advance of 20 per cent over the invoice value by the appraisers was made conclusive evidence of fraud, for which proceedings might be begun for condemning the goods, and the importer was compelled to assume the burden of proof that no fraud was intended. In any case before a judge no jury was allowed. This was the subject of most vigorous protests by leading importers, and some of the more objectionable features were modified by the Senate committee when considering the bill; *e.g.* the variation between invoice and appraised value that should entail confiscation was raised from 20 to 40 per cent.—The House Committee on Ways and Means began during the Christmas holidays to prepare for a **revision of the Tariff** schedules. After the usual protracted "hearings" of interested parties, the bill prepared by the majority of the committee was reported to the full committee on March 31, and on April 16 was presented to the House, accompanied by an elaborate report. The Democratic minority also presented a report. The majority declared their purpose to be not only to reduce the revenue, but also to foster and diversify American industry. "We have not been so much concerned about the prices of the articles we consume as we have been to encourage a system of home production that shall give fair remuneration to domestic producers and fair wages to American workmen, and by increased production and home competition insure fair prices to consumers." The opinion was expressed that every

increase proposed in the bill would, by cutting off importation, decrease the revenue. The reduction contemplated by the committee was stated to be about \$60,936,936 from customs, and \$10,327,878 from internal revenue. Important features of the bill are as follows: As to internal revenue, abolition of all kinds of licenses, heavy reductions in manufactured tobacco, except cigars and cigarettes, and abolition of the tax on alcohol used in the arts. As to import duties: an increase on wool and woollen goods and on tin plate; raw and the lower grades of refined sugar on the free list, with a bounty of 2 cents per pound for fifteen years to domestic producers; and a bounty to producers of silk cocoons and reeled silk. Steel rails are reduced \$4 per ton. The duties on agricultural products are, in general, increased, — barley, buckwheat, oats, butter and eggs, the last being an addition to the dutiable list. As the bill was first announced, hides, which had been on the free list for many years, were taxed, but, after some vacillation under the animated protests of the leather manufacturers, the committee finally restored them to the free list.

**THE CURRENCY.** — The conviction that something must be done to counteract the tendency toward contraction, due to the withdrawal of national bank circulation, has aroused much new interest in the silver question, as well as in propositions for prolonging the usefulness of the banks as issuers of notes. **A National Silver Convention** met at St. Louis, November 26, consisting of several hundred delegates, appointed by state governors. The states east of Ohio sent only four delegates, however, and those to the south of the Ohio River, not more than thirty. All that was done by the assembly was to express very fervid sentiments in favor of free coinage of silver and against the gold mono-metallists. — **Secretary Windom's silver coinage plan** was incorporated, with some additions and modifications, in a bill prepared by the House Committee on Coinage, in March. This provided for the issue of treasury notes in return for silver deposited with the Treasury, at a rate determined by the market price of silver at the time of the deposit. But no foreign bullion or coin could be received, and stringent regulations were provided to insure the enforcement of this provision. This was an addition to the original plan, and was intended to exclude the great mass of silver in Europe, which it was feared would immediately be sent to the United States. The notes were redeemable in bullion at the market price at the time of presentation, or in gold, if the government so chose, or in standard silver dollars, if the person presenting so chose. Deposits of bullion would be refused when the market price was above \$1 for 371¼ grains of pure silver. — On February 25, the **Senate Finance Committee's silver bill** was reported. It also aimed at increasing the silver element in the currency, but differed from the Windom bill in many important respects. It required the purchase of silver bullion to the amount of \$4,500,000 per month, at the market price, and of all the gold bullion presented. Against this metal, treasury notes were to be issued, redeemable on demand in "lawful money of the United States," without distinction of metal. The bullion deposited was to be coined. A joint caucus of Republican senators and representatives, on April 24, agreed upon a compromise bill which embraced the leading features of the Senate plan, with a proviso taken from the Windom bill, allowing the secre-

tary of the Treasury, at his discretion, to redeem the notes in silver bullion at the market value on the day of redemption. Another rather important modification of the Senate bill was that the monthly purchase required was 4,500,000 ounces of silver instead of \$4,500,000 worth. — The question of the **national bank note circulation** has been discussed on the old lines by both the treasury officials and Congress. A bill drawn by Mr. John Jay Knox, and submitted to Congress, connects the question of the bank circulation in a measure with the silver question. The plan provides that the banks may circulate notes to an amount up to 75 per cent of their capital. Of these notes 70 per cent shall be secured by United States bonds; provided, however, that if a bank choose, one-half of this security may be furnished by deposit of gold or silver bullion or coin at the current market price. If at any time the market value of either metal or bonds falls below the amount of notes based upon it, the depreciation must be made up by the deposit of more metal. With reference to the future decrease of bonds, provision is made for the gradual accumulation of a "safety-fund" of metal, upon the security of which the notes may continue after all the bonds are paid off. Another bill, introduced by Senator Hiscock, provides for a circulation based upon approved real-estate mortgages, gold and silver bullion, storage warrants and warehouse receipts of pig-iron, cotton, and wheat.

**THE ADMINISTRATION.** — Of the various heads of departments, the **report of the secretary of the Treasury** excited the greatest interest. After elaborate arguments in behalf of the recommendations incorporated in the President's message in reference to the surplus, tariff reform and subsidies for commerce, Secretary Windom attacked the silver question and set forth, at great length, a new plan for dealing with it. The problem, as he stated it, is to satisfy the popular sentiment which demands a bi-metallic currency, by devising some certain means for keeping in circulation the two metals at a relative face value widely different from the market value of bullion. After showing that all the plans formerly suggested were objectionable in some vital point, he recommended the following measure: "Issue treasury notes against deposits of silver bullion at the market price of silver when deposited, payable, on demand, in such quantities of silver bullion as will equal in value, at the date of presentation, the number of dollars expressed on the face of the notes at the market price of silver, or in gold, at the option of the government, or in silver dollars at the option of the holder. Repeal the compulsory feature of the present coinage act." The secretary's proposition did not meet with a very enthusiastic reception by any of the parties interested in the matter. A strong objection made to it was the opportunity it created for speculation in silver. It was to meet this that discretion was given by the plan to the secretary both as to the amount of silver bullion receivable and the kind of metal to be used in redeeming the notes. But this discretion was the subject of as serious criticism as the danger it was devised to obviate. — In reference to the practice of depositing the surplus in national banks, Mr. Windom denounced the idea in vigorous terms, and declared his purpose to commence a gradual withdrawal of such deposits and to devote the funds to the purchase of bonds. The amount of these deposits, on Nov. 1, 1889, was \$47,495,479. — The most **important appointments** to office by the President have been:



United States Circuit Judge David J. Brewer, of Kansas, to be associate justice of the United States Supreme Court, confirmed December 18; William H. Taft, of Ohio, to be solicitor-general, and Augustus Heard, of Massachusetts, to be minister-resident to Corea, confirmed February 4; Robert Adams, minister to Brazil, January 30; Charles Emory Smith, minister to Russia, February 10; Lewis A. Grant, assistant secretary of War, April 5. — The working of the **Civil Service Law** in reference to appointments received a very warm eulogy from Secretary Windom in his annual report. Both for the relief from the distraction incident to the old method and for the quality of the working force secured, he declared the reformed system far preferable to the old, and announced that the extension of the former to the appointment of chiefs of division was under consideration. The friends of the reform agree, in the words of *The Nation*, that President Harrison's "administration of the Civil Service Act has been, on the whole, very faithful." Outside of the act itself, much opportunity for criticism has been found, especially in the Post-office department. About 33,000 changes had been made here by the close of the first year. The removal of Mr. Saltonstall, customs collector at Boston, after he had declined an invitation to resign, occasioned considerable comment, as Mr. Saltonstall was a well-known friend of the reform and had conducted the custom-house administration strictly in accordance with its principles. — **An investigation of the Civil Service Commission**, by the House Committee on Reform of the Civil Service was instituted February 19, under resolution of the House. Charges were made against the commission, first, of having retained in its service an employé who had given out to a candidate a copy of an examination paper; and, second, of having secured the appointment in the pension department of a clerk who had been discharged for cause from a Western post-office. No report has yet been made, since the committee has entered upon a general investigation of the workings of the law and of the commission from the beginning. — Through the instrumentality of the commission, warrants were issued on March 26 against the signers of a circular soliciting money from government clerks for political purposes, in connection with the November election in Virginia. The object is to test the efficiency of the law making such action a criminal offence. The annual motion in the House to strike out the appropriation for the support of the commission was defeated, April 26, by 61 to 120. — **The report of the Interstate Commerce Commission** announced that seventy-three formal hearings had been either held or scheduled during the past year. Its general investigation of free passes showed a great decrease in the number issued, but was not concluded at the date of the report. The competition of Canadian railways was discussed, but while it was shown to bear quite heavily on United States roads, the commission seemed to feel that the effects were not altogether bad. In addition to certain amendments, the following additional provisions to the law were recommended: The prohibition of commissions from one company to passenger ticket agents of another; the abolition of ticket brokerage; the payment of mileage for cars of private companies or persons; the application of the law to common carriers by water routes. — On February 10, the President signed the proclamation **opening the Sioux reservation** in South Dakota to settlement, and two days later the guards were

withdrawn, and the expectant crowds of settlers rushed in with a repetition of the scenes witnessed at Oklahoma. The report of the commission which negotiated the cession with the Indians was presented to Congress, with the recommendation of an appropriation of some \$1,500,000 necessary to carry out the bargain. The large majority of the Sioux, under the lead of Sitting Bull, declined to take allotments in severalty as allowed by the bill, and went off to their new reservation to be supported in the old way. Complaints were received in March from the Cherokee and Choctaw nations in the Indian Territory that settlers were continually invading their lands from Arkansas. There seems to be considerable activity among the whites who were lately expelled from grazing lands which they had leased from the Indians, but whose rights the government refused to recognize.

**THE FEDERAL JUDICIARY.** — **The Supreme Court** has made the following important decisions: March 24, the cases of several railroad companies *vs.* The Warehouse Commission of Minnesota (new Granger cases). Held, that the state law authorizing the commission to determine finally what rates for transportation are equal and reasonable is unconstitutional, as denying due process of law in a question of property right. April 7, Home Insurance Co. *vs.* New York State. Held, that the state tax on corporate franchises, proportioned to the dividends declared, is not a tax on the capital stock, and hence no deduction need be made for capital invested in United States bonds. The state law, therefore, is constitutional. April 14, the Nagle *habeas corpus* case. Held, that acting as body guard to a judge on circuit is a duty of a United States marshal, fairly inferable from the constitution and from the general scope of his functions, and that anything done in the performance of that duty, therefore, comes within the clause of the *habeas corpus* act directing the release of persons in custody for an act done “in pursuance of the laws of the United States.” The order of the circuit court is affirmed, by which Nagle, who killed Justice Field’s assailant, Terry, in California, was set free. — The federal **circuit court** in Virginia, April 7, passed upon a form of beef-inspection law somewhat different from those declared unconstitutional hitherto. The earlier laws forbade the sale in the respective states of beef that had not been inspected “on the hoof” in the state. The Virginia act requires that all beef killed more than one hundred miles from the place where it is offered for sale shall be inspected by county officers, whose fee shall be one cent per pound. It was decided that this provision also was an encroachment upon Congress’ power over interstate commerce, and was therefore unconstitutional. The case was carried to the Supreme Court.

## 2. AFFAIRS IN THE STATES.

November saw four **new states** added formally to the Union by the President’s proclamation: North Dakota and South Dakota on the 2d, Montana on the 8th, and Washington on the 11th. — Of the **elections for state officers** held in November, the most striking results were those in Iowa and Ohio. Each of these reversed the long-established practice by choosing Democratic governors. In Iowa, it was the first defeat for the Republicans in thirty years. In Ohio, Governor Foraker, who was candidate for a third term, and who had

a national reputation, was retired. Ex-Senator Mahone was overwhelmingly defeated in Virginia. New York chose Democratic candidates for minor offices; there was no gubernatorial election. — The closeness of the result in Montana's first state election led to disputed returns, a double legislature, and the choice of two pairs of United States senators, Republican and Democratic respectively. The tenor of the judicial decisions arising out of the matter in the state itself rather favored the Democratic contentions. In the United States Senate, however, on the ground of lack of jurisdiction to go behind the state canvassing board's certificates, the Republican senators have been seated. — The elections in Rhode Island in April resulted in a Democratic victory by a very narrow margin.

**ELECTORAL REFORM.** — The movement for ballot reform on the line of the so-called Australian system has made some progress; although, on account of the biennial-session laws of many states, the advance has not been so conspicuous as in the preceding winter. The legislature of Washington passed an act on March 19, embodying the Australian system without essential modification. In Iowa, a similar bill passed the lower house, but failed to go through the senate. The same was true in Ohio. A bill was introduced in the New Jersey legislature which, with the main features of the original system, allowed the distribution of ballots outside of the polling places. The official envelope feature was also introduced later, and then the measure became the subject of a wrangle between the two houses that has not yet been terminated. Maryland passed a law, March 29, which embodies most of the features of the Australian system, but which does not apply to the whole state. It has not yet been signed by the governor. In New York, the Saxton bill, embodying all the features most strongly insisted upon by the original friends of the reform, passed both houses of the legislature, but was vetoed by Governor Hill, March 31, on the ground, principally, that the exclusively official ballot provided for involved either a total disfranchisement of illiterates or a denial of secrecy to them, and was therefore unconstitutional. On April 18 a compromise measure was agreed to, allowing a "paster ballot" to be used, thus avoiding the necessity of official aid to illiterates, and substituting for the "blanket ballot" a series of tickets each containing the names of the candidates of a particular party. This bill was duly passed, almost without opposition, in both houses and was signed by Governor Hill May 1. — On April 4, the governor approved a very important measure of electoral reform, the Corrupt Practices Act, containing provisions which have proved very effective in England for obviating bribery and intimidation at elections. The principal clause is that requiring every candidate for office to file, within ten days after the election, sworn and verified statements in detail of his election expenses. Failure to do so entails upon any candidate the penalty of a misdemeanor, and upon the successful one the forfeiture of his office.

**THE TRUSTS.** — The last six months has revealed a very marked reaction against the movement toward combination of corporations on the trust principle. This has been caused both by a series of hostile decisions by the courts and also by adverse legislation. Combination still goes on, but through the process of regular incorporation rather than mere aggregation under trustees. Important judicial action in the matter has been as follows:

In California, on January 6, Judge Wallace, of the superior court, declared the forfeiture of the charter of the American Sugar Refinery Company, on the ground that by joining the trust, it had ceased to exercise the functions for which it had been incorporated. Previously to the decision, however, the trust had turned over the property to Havemeyer & Elder, of New York, and this fact was made the basis of an appeal. In New York, shortly after, the receiver of a refinery which had likewise been put into liquidation for belonging to the trust applied for an injunction against a similar transfer of property by the trust in that state, and also against the payment of any dividends in which the defunct company might have an interest. On February 11, Justice O'Brien, of the supreme court, granted the injunction, deciding practically that pending the appeal of the dissolved corporation to the highest court, the trust could dispose of no property and pay no dividends except under order of the courts. In Nebraska, a similar situation has been brought about in connection with a corporation belonging to the Whiskey Trust. After suit to forfeit the corporation's charter had been begun, the trust undertook to transfer the property, but was restrained by injunction, February 4, till the decision of the suit. In Illinois, a much more far-reaching judgment was rendered by the supreme court on November 26. The Chicago Gas Trust Company, a chartered corporation, had bought up a majority of the stock of all the gas companies of that city, thus establishing a monopoly. The court decided that the power to do this was not granted in the charter authorizing the manufacture and sale of gas. The purpose of a corporation's formation must be a legal one; but the suppression of competition is illegal, on grounds of public policy. Such a decision seems to cut off the resource of which the trusts are tending to avail themselves, *viz.* the securing of charters. During the last six months the American Cotton Oil Trust, the Distillers' and Cattle Feeders' (Whiskey) Trust, and the Sugar Trust have either completed or begun their transformation into chartered organizations. This form has been adopted also by most of the new combinations formed, such as that of the smelters and refiners, the starch manufacturers and others. — Projects of legislation against trusts have been introduced in almost every law-making body in the country, including the United States Congress. The difficulties in the way of effective action, however, have in most cases proved insuperable to the law-makers. In Missouri, a very rigorous law, passed some time ago, was put into execution in November. One section was as follows: "It shall be the duty of the secretary of State, upon satisfactory evidence that any company or association of persons duly incorporated and operating under the laws of this State has entered into any trust, combination, or association as provided in the preceding provisions of this act, to give notice to such corporation that unless they withdraw from and sever all business connection with such trust, combination, or association, their charter will be revoked at the expiration of thirty days from date of such notice." In accordance with this provision, the secretary of State, in November, declared the forfeiture of the charters of all corporations, several thousand in number, which had not returned satisfactory answers to a notice previously sent out by him. The matter was brought before the courts, and in March the circuit court at St. Louis decided the law unconstitutional, not as to the main point,

— the illegality of trusts, — but because the power to forfeit a charter, a judicial act, was vested in the secretary of State, a purely executive authority.

**LABOR INTERESTS.** — There have been no important events during the last six months in the field of controversy between employers and wage-earners. The wave of agitation seems to have crossed the ocean to Europe and to have left the United States in general calm. The Knights of Labor held their annual convention at Atlanta, in November; but neither their numbers nor their acts indicated any recovery from the relative insignificance into which the organization has fallen. Rather more powerful now seems to be the American Federation of Labor, which held its fourth annual convention at Boston in December. The chief subject of discussion was the agitation for the general adoption of the eight hour working day. A moderate line of action was resolved upon. May 1, 1890, was fixed as the date upon which definite demands for eight hours should be made, and it was determined that strikes should be avoided save as a very last resource. Since not all the trades unions affiliated with the Federation are thoroughly committed to the demand for eight hours, it was determined to begin the agitation in some one favorable trade, perhaps the carpenters', and concentrate all effort there first, gradually extending attention to the rest. An assessment of two cents per member was levied upon the federated union to provide a fund for the support of workmen where strikes should become necessary to enforce the demand. A rather significant paragraph in the report of Samuel Gompers, the president of the Federation, referred to the suggestions that had been made in reference to the combination of the workingmen with certain organizations of farmers. The report declared that investigation had shown the members of these organizations to be mostly employers of labor rather than wage-earners, and stated that combination with farm laborers would be a more appropriate proceeding. As the first of May approached, renewed activity appeared among the trades unions, and especially in the carpenters' organizations demands were made in various parts of the country which indicated a resolution to make the demonstration on that day an imposing and effective one. The day passed, however, without tumult anywhere, though meetings and processions were held in all the large cities.

**FARMERS' INTERESTS.** — There was held at Montgomery, Alabama, beginning November 13, a **National Farmers' Congress**, consisting of delegates appointed by the governors of over twenty western and southern states. The subjects of discussion were topics of special interest to the agricultural communities of those regions. R. F. Kolb, of Alabama, was chosen president. The resolutions adopted after several days' discussion asked Congress, among other things, to establish deep-water harbors on the Gulf coast, to facilitate trade with South and Central America; to improve navigation on the Mississippi; and to establish a national board of agriculture. Especial interest was manifested in the tariff question, and resolutions were passed by 160 to 89 demanding that while a substantially prohibitory duty is levied on woollen goods and other manufactured products, equally effective duties should be levied on mutton-sheep and wool of all kinds, and calling upon farmers to protest at the polls against the injustice done them by the tariff discrimination in favor of the manufacturers.— Rather more than the usual winter activity of

the ordinary farmers' organizations in the West has been evident. **The Michigan State Grange**, in December, passed the following resolutions: "*Resolved*, That we consider it for the best interest of the farmer as well as for the entire debtor class of the United States that the whole product of gold and silver from our mines should be utilized by the government as the basis of a legal-tender money currency, by purchasing the entire output of the mines at its bullion value and issuing thereon legal-tender coin certificates at its coin value, but without coinage of either metal until the necessities of the treasury require it. *Resolved*, That the national banking system, so far as it empowers such banks to issue money, should continue no longer than their charters permit, and that we are opposed to the issuing of paper money by any person, bank or corporation other than the United States, and that all such issuance in the future should be prohibited by law." In March **the Farmers' Alliance**, an organization which has made itself especially influential in Kansas, resolved: "*First*, That we demand legislative enactment apportioning the shrinkage of farm values that are under mortgage obligations, by reason of a contraction of the circulating medium or other unjust legislation, between the mortgagor and the mortgagee in proportion to their respective interests at the time the mortgage was drawn. *Second*, That we demand that Congress appoint a committee to investigate the original bill relating to national bonds, for the purpose of ascertaining whether the word 'for' was erased and the word 'after' substituted, making the bonds payable with the premium of 20 or 25 per cent. *Third*, That we demand the election of United States senators by direct vote of the people. *Fourth*, We demand the election of railroad commissioners by direct vote of the people, and that they be given plenary powers to regulate rates as is now the law in the state of Iowa." The decision of the Supreme Court denying to the Minnesota legislature the power to fix railway freight rates excited violent protests from the farmers' organizations. The executive committee of **the Minnesota Farmers' Alliance**, in resolutions demanding the abolition of the court, expressed their feeling as follows: "We call attention to the fact that the citizens of England, from whom we have largely derived our form of government, would not permit for one instant a bench of judges to nullify an act of Parliament. There the people are properly omnipotent, and no civilized government on earth has ever conferred such powers upon any court as are by our constitution granted to the United States Supreme Court. In our anxiety to protect the rights of property we have created a machine that threatens to destroy the rights of man."

**TEMPERANCE REFORM.** — The legislature of North Dakota passed an act in December carrying out the prohibitory features of the state constitution. The law is very strict, forbidding the sale, barter, or giving away of all intoxicating liquors. For the first offence it imposes penalties of \$200 to \$1000 fine, and imprisonment not less than ninety days nor more than one year. The second and each succeeding offence is treated as a felony, with punishment by imprisonment in the state prison for a period not exceeding two years and not less than one year. There is a proviso permitting registered pharmacists to sell for medicinal, mechanical, scientific and sacramental purposes. All places where intoxicants are sold are declared common nuisances, and the sheriff of the county in which such places are is empowered to abate them and

destroy all intoxicants and fixtures found therein. — Governor Goodell, of New Hampshire, felt it necessary to issue a vigorous proclamation, December 28, calling attention to the constant and flagrant violation of the prohibitory laws of that state, and summoning the administrative and judicial officers throughout the state and all good citizens generally to “one supreme effort to close up and suppress every liquor saloon of every description within our borders.”

— **A Decision of the Iowa Supreme Court**, February 9, sustaining a state law, tends to make prohibition in that state more effective. Difficulty had been found in proving the intoxicating character of beverages sold; and a state law was passed enacting that the possession of a revenue tax receipt from the United States should be considered evidence of guilt, on the ground that unless intoxicating beverages were being sold, no necessity for paying the United States tax would exist. It is claimed that dissatisfaction with this effective legislation had much to do with the unexpected defeat of the Republicans in the November elections. An attempt to introduce a license bill in the legislature in April was defeated by a narrow majority. — On April 28, the Supreme Court of the United States passed upon one feature of the Iowa prohibitory law in what was known as the “**original package case.**” The suit was due to the seizure by the state authorities of beer brought from Illinois and offered for sale in unbroken cases. The decision held that the liquor was a recognized subject of interstate commerce; that therefore its importation could only be prohibited by permission of Congress; that the right to import involved the right to dispose of the article introduced so that it should become mingled with the common mass of property within the region; that this blending was effected only when the original package left the hands of the importer; and that only after that could the authority of the state have unimpeded control. Inasmuch as no minimum limit is set to the size of the original package, this decision is considered a severe blow at all prohibition.

**BRITISH INVESTMENTS.** — Considerable interest has been excited by the publication of large investments of British capital in the United States in the acquisition of manufacturing establishments. The movement has been in progress for two years, but has not attracted attention till lately. Reports as to the total amount involved have been greatly exaggerated, but \$100,000,000 seems certainly to have been invested through the medium of British syndicates. The most valuable properties acquired have been breweries and flour mills. It is the kind of property acquired rather than the amount involved that gives especial interest to the matter; for many times this amount has long been concerned in railways alone. The only noticeable result of the movement thus far is the stimulation of a speculative spirit on both sides of the water which so distinguished an authority as the *London Economist* thinks may lead to harm. The enterprises in general have proved very successful, but in April the syndicate that had taken certain Detroit breweries was obliged to relinquish them to their original owners for lack of profits. The business fell off greatly, owing, it is said, to the patriotic refusal of customers to handle “British beer.”

**THE RACE PROBLEM.** — The legislature of South Carolina in December **repealed the Civil Rights Law**, enacted during the era of Reconstruc-

tion. The reason assigned was that it prohibited the railroads to furnish separate coaches for the two races under penalty of forfeiting their charters. A law was then passed providing for such separate accommodations. — In consequence of a difficulty between negroes and whites in Barnwell County, S.C., resulting as usual in the violent death of several blacks, many of the latter race in January emigrated in a body to Arkansas. An incident of this "exodus" common to other movements of the same type was the activity of transportation agents in magnifying the attractiveness of the new region. — **A Colored Men's Convention** met at Washington, February 3, and spent several days in discussing the interests of the race. A permanent organization was formed, with ex-Senator Pinchback as president, and an address was issued to the people of the United States, saying among other things: "We regret that there exists in certain parts of our country a condition of affairs which renders it necessary for the colored American citizens to meet in a separate body for the consideration of important questions, national in their character. It is because we have been made special objects of attack and oppression that we are compelled to meet in a separate convention, and suggest ways and means to remedy the evils of which we complain." After a long statement of grievances, the address closes with a petition to Congress, asking that the federal judiciary laws be amended so that it will be possible for the federal courts to organize juries that will be favorable to the enforcement of the laws; that Congress enact into a law some bill similar to the Blair Educational Bill and amend the national interstate law so as to nullify the effects of such state legislation as provides separate cars for white and colored passengers; that a law be passed that will put federal elections under federal control, and also the passage of a law reimbursing the depositors of the late Freedmen's Savings and Trust Company for the losses sustained by them through the failure of that institution. The proposition in Congress looking to the emigration of colored Americans to any other country, or even to any other part of our own country, through governmental aid, is emphatically condemned.

**THE MORMONS.** — Upon the application of several aliens for naturalization in Utah in November, objection was made against such as were Mormons becoming citizens. After hearing much evidence, especially from apostate Mormons, Judge Anderson decided that an alien who is a member of the Mormon church is not a fit person to be made a citizen of the United States. The evidence, he held, established unquestionably "that the teachings, practices, and purposes of the Mormon church are antagonistic to the government of the United States, utterly subversive of good morals and the well-being of society, and that its members are animated by a feeling of hostility toward the government and its laws." The applications of Mormons for naturalization were therefore denied. This affair was one of the preliminaries to a local election in Salt Lake City on February 10, in which the "gentile" element obtained control of the municipal government. For the first time the Mormons lost their political ascendancy in their chief centre. The strict enforcement of the anti-polygamy legislation of Congress had much to do with the result. It is believed that this election marks the turn in the tide which has long been prophesied as a certain accompaniment of the influx of Eastern immigrants. The Mormons, or at least the polygamous section of them,



received another severe blow in a decision of the United States Supreme Court, on February 3, which affirmed the constitutionality of the law for Idaho prescribing a test-oath as a qualification for the suffrage. The oath declares that the voter is not a bigamist or polygamist, that he does not encourage the practice of polygamy, and that he is not a member of any order which practices or encourages plural marriages. This decision destroys whatever possibility there was that the large number of Mormons who have recently settled in Idaho should secure political control of the territory, and the disappearance of this danger may hasten its admission as a state.

**OBITUARY.** — November 24, George H. Pendleton, formerly United States senator from Ohio, and recently minister to Germany; December 5, Jefferson Davis, ex-President of the Confederate States; December 23, Henry W. Grady, the eloquent orator of the "New South"; January 2, George H. Boker, ex-minister to Turkey, and known as a poet; January 9, Elbridge Gerry Lapham, ex-senator from New York; January 9, William D. Kelley, the oldest member of the House of Representatives both in years of life and of service; January 15, Walker Blaine, solicitor of the State department; January 19, Orlow W. Chapman, United States solicitor-general; February 17, Benjamin Vaughn Abbott, widely known as a writer on law; March 2, James E. English, ex-governor of Connecticut; March 23, Robert C. Schenck, ex-minister to Great Britain; April 13, Samuel J. Randall, ex-speaker of the House of Representatives.

## II. FOREIGN NATIONS.

**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS IN EUROPE.** — **The Triple Alliance** has shown no signs of dissolution. Uncertainty as to the effect of Bismarck's retirement on Germany's foreign policy was removed by the Emperor William's assurance that, so far as the alliance was concerned, it would remain the same. There was much comment in the European press in November on a reported plan of Bismarck to bring about a better **feeling between Russia and Austria**. This project was said to have been the subject of discussion on the occasion of Kalnoky's visit to Bismarck at Friedrichsruh, and between the German and Austrian Emperors at Innsbruck. It was proposed that Austria should withdraw her moral support of Prince Ferdinand in Bulgaria and leave Russia free hand there, short of actual occupation, while Herzegovina and Bosnia should in like manner be left by Russia to Austria. Italy claimed as the price of her consent the cession of the Trentino by Austria. The facts which confirmed the existence of the arrangement were the refusal by Austria to allow the negotiation of a Bulgarian loan in Vienna, the cessation of Russian pan-Slavic agitation in Bulgaria and a movement for the separation of the Trentino from the Tyrol in respect to local government. During the last week of November, however, the Austrian government granted permission for the quotation of the Bulgarian loan and signified its disapproval of autonomy in the Trentino. These steps destroyed the prospect of success of the new understanding and exposed Austria to charges of bad faith in the Russian, German and Italian press. — **The Bul-**

**garian question** has continued to attract attention throughout the whole period under review. At the end of December Russia called the attention of the powers to the violation of the Treaty of Berlin in the making of a loan by Bulgaria in aid of some of her railways. The Russian note declared, first, that the Bulgarian government was a mere revolutionary body which Russia could not recognize as having any right to deal with the public property; second, that pledging the revenues of roads in East Rumelia was an infringement of the rights of the Porte, as secured by the Berlin Treaty; and third, that engaging any of the state's income endangered the payment of sums due to Russia for the expenses of occupation after the war of 1877-8. This note was generally regarded as a mere public expression of Russia's hostility to Prince Ferdinand, without any intention of more serious opposition. In February an official claim was put in for the arrears of occupation expenses due to Russia, and the claim was promptly satisfied. The reason for the arrears was that Russia had not been willing for four years to recognize the government so far as to make a demand upon it for the debt. During March the question of Prince Ferdinand's recognition was pushed into the foreground by the action of the Bulgarian government itself. A formal demand for recognition was made upon the Porte, who as formally omitted to take any notice of it. Other powers were sounded upon the question, but the general feeling was that any important modification of the *status quo* would precipitate war, either between Russia and some of the great powers or between Bulgaria and the neighboring principalities. Servia has shown herself entirely under Russian influence. M. Patchitch, president of the Servian Skuptschina, spent some time in St. Petersburg in March, and Prince Nicholas of Montenegro announced his purpose of making a similar visit. An animated quarrel between Servia and Bulgaria arose in March, on account of the action of the Bulgarian agent at Belgrade, in reference to certain Macedonian students whom he considered to be Bulgarians, while Servia claimed them as Servians. War was apprehended for a time, but finally, under Austria's influence, the Bulgarian agent was recalled. — **A difficulty between Great Britain and Portugal** developed in December on account of conflicting claims to territory in southern Africa. Portuguese forces under Major Serpa Pinto invaded territory which had long been a subject of diplomatic contention, and took steps which Great Britain regarded as designed to settle the question by forcible occupation. To the British protests, the Portuguese cabinet responded by arguing the old questions and evaded the demand for the withdrawal of her forces; whereupon Lord Salisbury, on January 11, sent an ultimatum in the form of a dispatch to be transmitted by the Portuguese government to the governor of Mozambique, ordering the withdrawal in unambiguous terms, and directed the British legation to leave Lisbon the same afternoon if the ultimatum was not complied with. Upon this, Premier Gomez, reserving the right under the Treaty of Berlin to have the question settled by arbitration, submitted, under threat of war, to the British demand. An appeal to the Berlin signatory powers for a convention on the matter resulted only in an identical reply declining to interfere. — **Great Britain and France** have been involved again in controversy upon the perennial topic of the Newfoundland fisheries. The question was whether the right to catch and can lobsters along the "French

shore" was implied in the old treaty right to catch and dry fish. A *modus vivendi* for the coming season was agreed upon by the two governments in March, providing that the canning factories erected last season shall remain, but that new ones may be established only with the consent of both the British and the French naval commander on the coast. — **The Labor Conference at Berlin.** On February 4 the Emperor William addressed to the Imperial Chancellor a rescript in which, after expressing his sympathy for the hard lot of German workingmen and his appreciation of the fact that, on account of the keenness of international competition, improvement could only be hoped for by international co-operation, he directed the Chancellor to ascertain whether the leading foreign powers were inclined to confer on the subjects involved. The responses were favorable, though some modifications in the original scope of the plan were insisted upon by England. On March 15 the conference met, including delegates from Great Britain, France, Italy, Austria, Switzerland, Belgium, Holland, Denmark, Norway and Sweden, and various states of the German Empire. The delegates were without diplomatic character and included many business men and at least one socialist. The body concluded its work on March 29. Its recommendations embraced, in general, restriction and regulation of the kind and hours of work for women and children, careful provisions for the health and security of miners, the prohibition of Sunday labor wherever not absolutely necessary, and such interchange of statistical and administrative information as should enable the governments conferring to work in harmony on all the lines laid down. A noteworthy incident of the conference was the marked attentions offered by the Emperor to Jules Simon, the leader of the French delegation. This fact has been the source of much hopeful speculation as to the future relations of the two nations. It has even been reported, but from Parisian sources, that William favors the retrocession of Alsace-Lorraine. The Emperor's disposition toward general good-feeling manifested itself also in a correspondence with the Pope, in which, while not inviting Leo to send a delegate, William signified his purpose to invite the Bishop of Breslau to participate in the conference, in recognition of the church's interest in the subject. — **The Eight-Hour Demonstration.** At a meeting of socialists in Paris, in July, 1889, it was resolved that an effort should be made for a general and simultaneous demand by the laboring classes all over the world for an eight-hour working day. The trades unions were to be the means for bringing about the demonstration. It was earnestly urged by the leaders that no violence should be used, and moreover, that no general strike should be inaugurated. The day should simply be taken as a holiday, and the special character of the demonstration beyond this should be determined by the circumstances and laws of each particular country. May 1, 1890, was the day appointed. The idea was taken up by the trades unions all through western Europe. As the fixed day approached considerable uneasiness among all the dissatisfied elements of society was noted and the governments showed signs of anxiety lest great disturbances should result. Precautions were taken against revolutionary movements and the precautions were sufficient. Though in almost every large city in western Europe the workingmen's programme was more or less completely carried out, the day passed with only a few minor dis-

turbances. In several cities anarchistic presses and orators undertook to incite tumult, but all were promptly suppressed. Barcelona, in Spain, and several manufacturing towns in northern France, were the scenes of perhaps the greatest conflicts, but even these were not very serious.—**The Anti-Slavery Conference**, which began its sessions in Brussels in November, has not yet finished its work. The programme it laid out for itself was very comprehensive, involving the consideration of ways and means for striking at the African slave trade in the interior regions where the slaves are captured, on the coasts where they are embarked and in the lands where they are finally sold. Many difficult diplomatic and legal problems have to be solved by the way.

**GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.**—The general condition of internal affairs in the United Kingdom has been that of peace and quiet. This is especially true in the world of party politics. The usual **party conferences** were held in November and December, the Conservatives at Nottingham and the Liberals at Manchester. At each the question of Irish Home Rule was considered to be the leading issue of the day, but the hopelessness of any definite parliamentary progress in the matter at this time turned the discussions on other topics, chiefly of an administrative or an economical character. The Conservatives endorsed the propositions subsequently embodied in the address from the throne; the Liberals passed resolutions against cumulative voting, and others favoring shorter Parliaments, a direct vote of the people on the liquor traffic and disestablishment of churches in England and Wales.—**The labor troubles** which began with the great dock strikes, settled rather in favor of the workmen on November 4, have continued in various forms ever since. Various sporadic strikes among tailors, bakers, tramway men, *etc.* for more pay and shorter hours were generally successful. A far more serious matter was the strike in December of gas-stokers in London and Manchester, aided by the unions of laborers in the coal trade. The phenomena so familiar on this side of the water all appeared on this occasion,—appeals to public sympathy and support, threats and even violence against “scabs,” denunciations of police interference and threats to overturn the whole social fabric. But as the origin of the strike was not so much dissatisfaction with wages and hours as objection to a scheme of “profit-sharing” which seemed likely to interfere with their union, the laborers failed to secure favor with the public and their demands ultimately failed. In the middle of March a widespread strike of coal miners in the north of England for higher wages caused great trouble in all industries requiring a large coal supply. The men were generally successful.—**Mr. Parnell and the Times.** The suit for libel against the latter was unexpectedly settled without trial on February 3, by the payment of £5,000 damages to Mr. Parnell and a smaller sum to his private secretary, with all costs of the action. The suit was based upon the publication of the Pigott letters. The *Times* said, in reference to the matter: “After our withdrawal of the letters it was clear we had no legal defence; therefore no alternative was open to us but to come to terms or abide the verdict of a jury. As we had at the outset challenged such action we cannot complain at being taken at our word.” **The Parnell Commission**, after sitting 128 days, concluded its sessions on November 22. On February 13

the report of the judges was submitted to Parliament. The report is voluminous, embracing copious extracts from the evidence and concluding with distinct findings on the nine specific charges of the *Times*. The conclusions may be summarized as follows: *Proved*: That Messrs. Davitt, O'Brien, Dillon and five others joined the Land League in order to use it for bringing about the independence of Ireland as a separate nation; that all the respondents entered a conspiracy to agitate by coercion and intimidation against rents, in order to drive the landlords from the country; that they disseminated newspapers tending to incite to sedition and crime; that they directly incited to intimidation which resulted in crime, and did not denounce this intimidation, though knowing its effect; that they defended persons charged with agrarian crime and supported their families; that they made payments of compensation to persons injured in the commission of crime; that they invited and accepted the assistance of the physical-force party in America, including Patrick Ford and the Clan-na-Gael, and, for the sake of this aid, abstained from condemning that party's acts. *Not proved*: That after publicly denouncing crimes, they led their followers to believe their denunciation was not sincere; that they made payments to incite persons to commit crime; that they were intimately associated with notorious criminals and made payments to procure the escape of criminals from justice; that any of the respondents knew that the Clan-na-Gael controlled the League or was collecting money for the fund. *Disproved*: That the respondents collectively were in a conspiracy aiming at the absolute independence of Ireland; that they were insincere in denouncing the Phoenix Park murders; that they directly incited to crime other than intimidation; that none of them expressed *bona fide* disapproval of crime and outrage. The specific charges against Mr. Parnell, that he was privy to the doings of the Invincibles at the time of the Phoenix Park murders and gave financial assistance to one of them to escape to France, are declared disproved. As to the special charges against Mr. Davitt, it is found that he was a convicted Fenian; that he employed for agrarian agitation money that had been contributed for purposes of outrage and crime, *viz.* the "skirmishing fund"; and that he was in close association with the physical-force party in America and was mainly instrumental in uniting that party with the American Parnellites. Both parties to the controversy profess to be satisfied with the verdict. The *Times* points to the serious charges declared proved and the long array of not-proved items which it considers as practically decided against the defendants. The Parnellites, on the other hand, declare that while they never denied what is found proved, on the personal charges which alone were important, their leader's triumph is absolute. — **Parliament** met on February 11. The Queen's speech announced friendly relations with other powers and further improvement in the condition of affairs in Ireland, permitting a restriction of the area of coercion. Propositions were promised for land-purchase by Irish occupiers, for local self-government in Ireland and for assisting the people of the poorer districts. For Great Britain, bills were promised for facilitating the transfer of land and the redemption of tithes, for improving the condition of the Scotch crofters, for ascertaining the liability of employers for accident to workmen and for sanitary

improvement. **The opening debates** turned almost exclusively on Irish affairs. A motion by Sir William Harcourt declaring the *Times* guilty of a breach of privilege in publishing the forged Pigott letters was voted down, though Mr. Smith, the Conservative leader, expressed the government's conviction that the forgery had been proved. Mr. Parnell moved an amendment to the address, on February 14, asking for the repeal of the coercion act. In the discussion of this, it was admitted on all sides that Ireland was in a state of great comparative tranquillity; but the fact was attributed by the Liberals solely to the two successive good harvests, and by the Conservatives solely to the policy of the government. The amendment was rejected on the 18th by 307 to 240. After much nagging by the Parnellites, the government leader in the House, on March 3, moved the adoption of the Parnell Commission's report, with thanks to the judges for the justice and impartiality of their proceedings. Mr. Gladstone proposed an amendment, reprobating the calumnious charges made against members of the House, and while expressing satisfaction at the exposure of evil-doers, regretting the wrong inflicted and the loss endured through those acts of flagrant iniquity. The general objection of Mr. Gladstone to the adoption of the report was that, while it was written in perfect honor and good faith, the judges exhausted all their efforts in pointing out the villainies of certain admittedly bad Irishmen, and omitted entirely the proper condemnation of that by no means lesser villainy — the use of forgery to blacken the character of political adversaries — through which alone the commission had been called into existence. Mr. Gladstone's amendment was rejected by 399 to 268. On March 11, after Lord Randolph Churchill had created a sensation by a violent attack on the government for its course in establishing the special court, the report of the commission was adopted. The House of Lords adopted the report on the 21st. — On the 24th, the government's **Irish land purchase bill** was introduced in the Commons by Mr. Balfour. It provides for an advance of sums up to £33,000,000 for the acquisition of land by Irish tenants from landlords who are willing to sell, subject to the control of a reorganized land commission. Repayment to the government is to be by 4 per cent annuities running for 49 years. The securities against loss to the government through default of the purchasers are carefully arranged and include £240,000 yearly contributed by the imperial treasury to local Irish purposes and  $\frac{1}{4}$  per cent charged on the tenants, besides a number of contingent sums; that is, the Irish local taxpayers are ultimately responsible. The landlords are paid in  $2\frac{3}{4}$  per cent government stock. There are provisions in the bill for various expedients to relieve the "congested districts." In the debate on the second reading Mr. Parnell opposed the bill as not a satisfactory solution of the land question. The maximum sum to be advanced he showed was ridiculously inadequate to a complete transfer of Irish land to the tenants. It would simply enable some of the richer landlords to sell out and leave Ireland. He suggested that the act be limited to tenancies not exceeding £50 valuation, and that the advances should be directed not to the purchase of the land, but to enabling the landlords to reduce rents. Other objections, advocated by Mr. Gladstone and his followers, were that the securities involved burdens upon the Irish county taxpayers without any reference to their will, and that neither this nor any other

measure could be successful till some system of home rule should enable the Irish people to give their consent. The bill passed the second reading May 1, by 348 to 268, Mr. Balfour intimating a possibility that some of Mr. Parnell's suggestions might be adopted later.— **The budget** was presented to the Commons by Mr. Goschen, April 17. It showed a surplus of £3,221,000, due mostly to increased consumption of spirituous liquors. Various small reductions of taxation were proposed, including that of 2*d.* per pound on tea.— **Affairs in Ireland** have not been especially exciting. The new Tenant's Defence League has prospered fairly among the farmers and has afforded an opportunity for meeting and agitation in counties where the National League is prohibited. Archbishops Walsh and Croke have come out strongly in support of the new league. The fortnightly meetings of the National League at Dublin have been but thinly attended and the cash receipts have been small. An extraordinary state of affairs prevails in the town of Tipperary. Nearly the whole of the town is owned by Mr. A. H. Smith-Barry, who has waged a vigorous war of eviction against the plan of campaign on an estate near Youghal. In sympathy with those evicted, practically all his Tipperary tenants, including merchants, shopkeepers and professional classes, refused to pay their rents and left their homes and places of business. These people were in general fairly well-to-do, and under the auspices of the national organization they began the creation of a new town in the immediate vicinity of the old. There have been no serious disturbances here and the buildings of New Tipperary are now about ready for occupation. The market was opened with great ceremony on April 12. Mr. Smith-Barry is also carrying out an energetic system of eviction at the town of Cashel, whose people assume the attitude of the Tipperary men.— **The new lord-lieutenant**, the Earl of Zetland, took up his residence in Dublin, December 15.— The Cork Board of Guardians was dissolved by the Local Government Board in January, on account of its irrepressible inclination to devote its meetings to political discussions involving abuse of the government rather than to the legitimate duties of its position.— **Died**: January 14, Baron Napier of Magdala, the distinguished soldier of Indian and Abyssinian wars; February 19, Joseph G. Biggar, Irish member from Cavan, who in 1875 began the policy of obstruction in the House of Commons which contributed so much to the development of Parnellism.

**THE BRITISH COLONIES.**— **Canada** has found in her **race and religious troubles** the chief source of political interest. In the province of Quebec, Minister Mercier has balanced his great Catholic victory in the Jesuits Estates Bill by a small concession to the Protestants in the matter of higher education. But bitterness between the sects is still intensified by questions of church taxation. The Dominion Parliament at Ottawa opened its session on January 16. The governor-general's speech took strong ground against the pretensions of the United States in the Behring Sea matter. On February 12 the discussion of an affray between Catholics and Protestants in a town near Ottawa caused a violent scene in the House of Commons. A few days later a motion to abolish the French language as conjointly official with the English in the Northwest Territories led to an exceedingly bitter debate lasting several days. The government finally patched up and carried a compromise

which, without either affirming or denying the French claims to the use of their language under the federal compact, provided for the maintenance of both languages in the courts and in the laws, while leaving the territorial legislature its own discretion as to its records and proceedings. In Manitoba, at the same time, the rapidly growing English interest showed its strength by the passage of an act by the provincial legislature abolishing the official use of French in the province, and by the introduction under government auspices of a sweeping measure to do away with the Catholic separate schools. New difficulties are threatened in the Northwest Territories by a growing influx of Mormons, fleeing from the severe legislation of the United States. A large colony of them settled in Alberta under solemn pledges to the Dominion government not to practise polygamy. There is no law against this in the Dominion, and under stimulus of reports that the Mormons are violating their pledges, an agitation has developed to induce Parliament to legislate in the matter. — **Tariff legislation** was under discussion in the Dominion Parliament all through April, and the general tendency of the government's policy is toward higher duties on agricultural products. The opposition insists that such a tendency will provoke dangerous retaliation by the United States, against whose products it is mainly directed. Reciprocity in raw materials is advocated by the Liberals, but without much prospect of success. The *modus vivendi* in reference to the rights of American fishermen was renewed for a year by an act passed April 29. — In **Newfoundland** a new ministry assumed control in December. The main issue that brought them in was connected with the quarrel with the French fishermen on the coast. The *modus vivendi* arranged by the British government with France is violently disliked by an influential element of the people, and annexation to the United States is openly discussed. — **A native congress in India** was held at Bombay at the end of December, with some 2000 delegates. Mr. Bradlaugh was present from England. The congress adopted resolutions demanding many administrative reforms and also representative government. The Parsees and Mohammedans stand aloof from the movement. — **Australian Federation** was discussed at a meeting of delegates from the various colonies in February at Melbourne. Resolutions were passed expressing the conviction that union in the near future would be advantageous to all, and providing for future conventions on the subject. The debates showed that tariff rivalries were somewhat of an obstacle to federation. New Zealand is willing to join only for common defence.

**GERMANY.** — **The Emperor's tour** through southern Europe terminated November 15. Among its later incidents were a visit to the Sultan at Constantinople and a conference with the Emperor Francis Joseph at Innsbruck. **The session of the Reichstag** continued till January 25, when the body closed its term. Most interest in its proceedings attached to the **anti-socialist bill** of which the government demanded the renewal as a permanent measure. The most arbitrary powers bestowed by the bill, especially the right to expel dangerous socialists at discretion, met with opposition by the National Liberals, the chief element in the government's majority, and the expulsion clause was defeated 166 to 111. As the government declined to push the measure without this clause, and as the Chancellor brought no personal



effort to bear in the matter, the bill was finally rejected by Conservative votes. — The first in a series of events which have attracted the attention of all the world to Germany was wide-spread **labor troubles** among her miners, beginning in the early part of December. A period of considerable disorder followed, contemporaneous with the strikes in England, Belgium and other parts of Europe. On February 4, the labor problem acquired a new importance through the issue by the Emperor of two **rescripts in reference to workingmen's interests**. One, addressed to the Imperial Chancellor, directed the summons of the international conference at Berlin, elsewhere referred to; the other, directed to the Prussian minister of Public Works, Commerce and Industry, after expressing the King's high sense of the importance of governmental concern in the laborers' welfare, declared the necessity of a wider extension of the workingmen's insurance system and of a number of regulations for securing the health, morals and general economic advantage of the laboring classes. He suggested also the authorization of workingmen's representatives, to express the wants and wishes of their brothers and to treat with employers about common concerns. A council of state was then summoned to meet under the Emperor's presidency for the consideration of all the matters referred to. These papers created a great sensation in both official and non-official circles. Rumors of a disagreement between Prince Bismarck and the Emperor were based upon the absence of the former's counter-signature from the royal document. It was quite generally felt, at all events, that the approaching **general elections for the Reichstag** and the energetic electioneering of the Socialists had some influence in stimulating this sudden manifestation of imperial socialism. The elections were held February 20, and the result was the complete overthrow of the National Liberals, — upon whom, in alliance with the Conservatives, the government's majority had been based, — and enormous gains by the Freisinn and Socialistic groups. The official record of the composition of the Reichstag is as follows: Conservatives, 72; Imperialists, 19; National Liberals, 43; Freisinnige, 67; Centrists, 107; Socialists, 35; Volkspartei, 10; Poles, 16; Guelphs, 11; Reichslanders, 10; anti-Semites, 5; Dane, 1; no party, 1. The Centre (Ultramontane) alone can form a majority in conjunction with the faithful Conservatives. In the popular vote, the most striking feature is the advance of the Socialists from 10.1 per cent in 1887 to 19.08 per cent of the total — a gain in round numbers of 600,000 votes. Evidences of negotiations with the Centrist leader, Herr Windthorst, to secure his support for the government were manifest immediately after the result of the elections was known. It seems most likely that in connection with these negotiations arose the circumstances which were the immediate occasion of **the retirement of Prince Bismarck**. The Chancellor's resignation was accepted by the Emperor on March 20, and General George Leo von Caprivi was appointed his successor both as Imperial Chancellor, as president of the Prussian ministry, and, after a short interval, as Prussian minister of Foreign Affairs. No official publication of Bismarck's reasons for resigning has been made. The Emperor's very eulogistic letter accepting the resignation made no allusion to them save to declare that they precluded all hope of a change of the Chancellor's resolution. From statements in the *North German Gazette*, hitherto Bismarck's organ, it would

seem probable first, that the Emperor's labor policy was *not* a source of disagreement with the Chancellor; second, that the Emperor's energetic and headstrong disposition and his conviction of a personal responsibility, to be sustained by personal attention to all governmental affairs, had been for some time a source of dissatisfaction to Bismarck; third, that the latter definitely determined to resign because William resolved to revoke the Prussian ordinance of 1852 requiring that all communication between the King and his ministers should be through the president of the ministry, — an ordinance which in practice has made the minister-president alone directly responsible to the King; and fourth, that the immediate occasion of the final rupture was a demand by William for information as to the nature of an interview which Bismarck was learned to have had with Windthorst, the Ultramontane leader in the Reichstag, — a demand which led the Prince to decline to submit his intercourse with the members of the house to any control. The Emperor's letter accepting Bismarck's resignation expressed the deepest gratitude for the Prince's work in behalf of Germany and the Hohenzollerns, and conferred upon him the title of Duke of Lauenburg and the rank of field-marshal general in the army and colonel general of cavalry. On March 29 the ex-Chancellor left Berlin, amid a great demonstration of popular love, and retired to his country seat at Friedrichsruh. Count Herbert Bismarck followed his father into retirement, being succeeded in his place as imperial foreign secretary by Baron Marschall von Bieberstein. — Chancellor von Caprivi made his first official public appearance at the opening of the Prussian Landtag on April 15. In addition to the usual sentiments of patriotic devotion to Prussia, Germany and the Hohenzollerns, his speech contained a high eulogy of his predecessor, and expressed the belief that under the new régime there would be much more room for the working of individual effort in the ministry than was possible, in the nature of things, under the presidency of so powerful a personality as that of Prince Bismarck. The intimation in this statement was understood to be that the responsibility of the various ministers to the King directly, instead of through the president of the ministry, was to be the rule in the future.

**AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.** — Cisleithan interest has been chiefly centred in the **race antagonism in Bohemia**. The energetic anti-German propaganda developed by the Czechs in the Bohemian Diet, culminating in the demand that the Austrian Emperor should be formally crowned King of Bohemia, resulted in the withdrawal of the German delegates from the legislature altogether. In December the matter came up in the Reichsrath through an interpellation as to the government's position on the subject. Count Taaffe announced that no change in the existing constitution of Austria and no coronation at Prague were contemplated by the ministry, but that on the other hand the discussion of constitutional changes in the Bohemian Diet did not seem to involve anything that called for censure. This answer was designed to placate the Germans without offending the Czechs. The result was the continuation of the violent manifestations of race animosity throughout Bohemia and serious threats of a withdrawal of the German members from the Reichsrath. Finally the Emperor by his personal intervention brought about a reconciliation-conference at Vienna between the

German and the Czech leaders. The conference sat from the 4th to the 19th of January. Its conclusions were accepted by all parties, though the "Young Czechs" considered themselves betrayed to their German enemies. The agreement involves a host of details in reference to educational, religious, commercial and electoral administration in Bohemia, devised with the general purpose of assuring to the German minority the maintenance of their nationality in the midst of the Slavonic majority. Upon the announcement and execution of the plans proposed, the German members resumed their seats in the Diet. It is considered that the concessions thus made to the German element were all that saved a crisis in the Austrian ministry and the downfall of Count Taaffe. — In Hungary the chief fact of interest has been the **resignation of Herr von Tisza**, for fourteen years at the head of the ministry. This event was the result not of any defeat of the Liberal party, but of long-standing personal rivalries in the cabinet itself. It seems that the proposition made to re-naturalize Kossuth, which the latter promptly repudiated, precipitated the crisis. Count von Szapary, formerly minister of Agriculture, succeeded Tisza and the other ministers retained their positions. — Count Julius Andrassy, the Hungarian ex-premier of the empire, died February 18.

**FRANCE.** — The legislature assembled on November 12. In the **new Chamber of Deputies**, after the validation of elections had proceeded far enough, M. Floquet was elected president by an overwhelming majority. Premier Tirard announced his policy to the chamber on the 19th and received an emphatic vote of confidence as against a Boulangist motion for revision of the constitution. The indications at this time were quite favorable to a united Republican majority in support of the government. The royalists were evidently divided as to whether they should cling to the shattered remnants of Boulangism or recognize the republic as hopelessly a fact. Out of this division of opinion arose weakness in action. — **The position of the Boulangists** was not allowed by the government to be improved over the plight in which the elections left them. A demonstration organized in Paris for the day on which the chambers met was summarily suppressed by the military. In authenticating elections, the chamber rejected without mercy claimants who had followed the aspiring general. A critical point was reached when the Montmartre election was taken up. Boulanger himself had received the majority of votes for this seat, but as he was ineligible, the question was whether a new election should be ordered or the seat should be given to his Republican adversary, M. Joffrin. Not till the 9th of December was the latter course finally adopted. The decisive reason for this was that Boulanger had announced his intention to stand again if a new election were ordered, and the government was unwilling to permit a revival of his agitation. The Boulangists made a great outcry at the action of the chamber and their representatives created a scandalous scene when M. Joffrin undertook to speak in the chamber in January. Other manifestations of this sort led to the adoption, February 25, of a rule authorizing a prolonged suspension of any member not promptly heeding the presiding officer's calls to order. — The Boulangists had scarcely been brought firmly under control when the government found itself called upon to deal with a royalist demonstration. On February 7 the

**Duke of Orleans**, eldest son of the Count of Paris, was **arrested at the capital**. His offence was the violation of the law forbidding any of the members of his family to enter French territory. It was at first feared that he had sought to bring about a *coup d'état*, but he himself claimed that he only came to fulfil the term of military service due from every Frenchman. His patriotic purpose availed him little; for he was promptly tried, convicted and sent to prison for two years. It is expected that he will soon be pardoned. — Evidences of division among the Republicans began to appear quite clearly in February and the old dissension between the radical and the moderate wings, together with differences of a personal nature with the premier, led to the resignation on March 1 of M. Constans, minister of the Interior. He was succeeded by M. Bourgeois, a more advanced radical; but it was felt that the government was weakened and on March 13 occurred **the fall of the Tirard cabinet**. The occasion was an adverse vote in the Senate on the subject of a commercial treaty with Turkey. The true cause, however, lay deeper and must be sought in those personal and group influences which it was hoped the Boulangist danger had frightened out of the Republican majority. M. de Freycinet undertook the **formation of a new ministry**. The novelty was chiefly in the assignment of the positions; for most of the former ministers remained in the cabinet. M. Constans resumed his old place in the Interior department and M. Bourgeois assumed the portfolio of Public Instruction. Premier de Freycinet announced his policy on the 18th. It included especial attention to the protection of agricultural and laboring interests, particularly in the commercial readjustment required by the expiration of several treaties in 1892.

**RUSSIA.** — Until the last half of the six months under review affairs within the Czar's dominion were apparently calm. In February, however, reports appeared in the foreign press of **commotions among the political exiles in Siberia**. In the spring of 1889 an affray occurred at Yakoutsk in which several exiles were slain by the soldiery and more were executed. The accounts from Nihilist sources represent the cause as lying in the atrocious cruelty of the authorities, which provoked the prisoners to armed resistance. In November, the women political exiles at Kara took umbrage at the conduct of the authorities and resorted to a "hunger-strike," or voluntary starvation. Thwarted in their purpose by violence, one of them assaulted the governor and was in consequence flogged so that she died. Others committed suicide by poison, and some of the male exiles did the same. The circumstances of these affairs have excited much feeling outside of Russia; inside, no public reference to them has been tolerated. Whether or not connected with these events is not clear, but at all events a very general **disturbance among the students** at the universities in European Russia manifested itself in the last week of March. The institutions at Moscow and St. Petersburg were closed by the authorities and many of the students were arrested. Reports are conflicting as to the origin of the troubles, but it is said that revolutionary doctrines were concerned. — It was rumored that an unsuccessful attempt to murder the Czar was made about April 1. — Much ill-feeling has been manifested in the Baltic provinces and Finland on account of very pronounced measures adopted for the thorough Russification of those regions.

**ITALY.**—**The Parliament** was opened by the King in person on November 25. He announced a policy of social, educational and commercial reforms without increase of taxation. In December, in accordance with the King's announcement, the law imposing differential duties on French products was repealed, in order to terminate the commercial war with France. On December 20 a bill passed secularizing the *opere pie*, charitable foundations hitherto under control of the church, and possessing an aggregate income of \$30,000,000 per annum. This act was bitterly opposed by the clericals, who stigmatized it as barefaced robbery. They charged that the \$60,000,000 deficit in the budget was the real motive that led the government to confiscate the charities. The law formed a prominent feature in the complaints contained in the Pope's addresses later.—Prince Amadeus, Duke of Aosta, brother of King Humbert and formerly King of Spain, died January 19.

**SPAIN.**—**A cabinet crisis** extended over practically all the first half of our period. It became acute at the resignation of the ministry on January 3. Premier Sagasta failed in his undertaking to form a new cabinet. A temporary truce was caused by the very serious illness of the infant King during the second week of January, which distracted his regent mother's attention from public affairs. Upon his recovery, an attempt of Senor Martinez to form a conciliation ministry failed and Sagasta finally took the reins again, but with a cabinet consisting wholly of his own faction of the Liberals. The main subjects which were prominently before the Cortes were the budget and a proposition for universal suffrage. The Liberals were not united on either, and the Conservatives were not strong enough to profit by this fact. The budget showed the usual deficit, about \$20,000,000.—Considerable activity and enthusiasm were manifested among the republicans upon the announcement of the Brazilian revolution; and when the death of the King seemed probable, the Carlists made some demonstrations in the north.

**MINOR EUROPEAN STATES.**—In Portugal, the new King, Carlos I, was proclaimed with due ceremony, December 28. The news of the Brazilian revolution created considerable republican agitation throughout Portugal and fears of an insurrection were rife for many weeks. England's action in reference to Portugal's movements in Africa created a wide-spread and violent expression of popular feeling in January against the English. Mobs in several cities attacked the British consulates and a boycott was organized against wares from England. The Gomez ministry resigned and a new cabinet was formed under de Serpa Pimental. A further modification of this body was effected April 2.—**The Porte** issued a firman granting amnesty to the Cretan insurgents, December 5. Many of the leaders were excepted from pardon, but the firman decreed many reforms in the administration of Crete. Moussa Bey, who was charged with barbarities to Christians in Armenia, was privately tried—at least so the Turkish government said—and acquitted. A law was promulgated on December 30 containing elaborate regulations for the prohibition of the slave trade in the Ottoman Empire and its dependencies.—The government of **Servia**, on December 10, expropriated the salt monopoly held by the Anglo-Austrian bank. Some friction with Austria-Hungary was the result. The Belgrade cabinet was reorganized

March 28, with General Grouitch as prime minister. — **Bulgaria** has been chiefly interested in avoiding the snares of Russian intrigue. On February 2 a plot was detected, headed by an army officer, Major Panitza, for the purpose of seizing and making away with Prince Ferdinand. Evidence is said to have been discovered connecting Russian officials with the affair. Early in March, the Bulgarian government made a general demand upon all the leading powers for the recognition of Prince Ferdinand. This movement was understood to have reference rather to party politics at home than to any hope of success abroad. M. Stambouloff, the prime minister, wished to cultivate patriotic feeling in view of approaching elections. — The Russophil Catargi cabinet in **Roumania** was succeeded on November 15 by one more to the King's taste, under General Manu. — In **Denmark**, Minister Estrup, hopeless of getting his budget passed, dissolved the Folkthing, January 2, and ordered new elections for the 21st. The results showed very little change in the great opposition majority which has so long annoyed him. After a renewed conflict with the new chamber, the legislature was prorogued April 1, and the collection of the revenue was ordered by royal decree. — **Belgium** experienced during the winter the troubles of prolonged and general strikes among the miners, especially in the region of Charleroi. These were simultaneous with the labor troubles in Germany. The strikers were generally successful in obtaining at least a part of their demands.

**AFRICA.** — **The General Assembly of Egypt** met December 15 to consider financial reforms made possible by the extraordinary fact of a surplus of £150,000 in the budget for 1890. A decree was approved abolishing to a great extent the *corvée* and substituting a land tax. The proposition to convert a five per cent into a four per cent loan failed through the refusal of the French government to give its consent. This consent was promised on conditions looking to an early or at least a definite date for the withdrawal of the British troops—conditions which Great Britain rejected. — The rivalry among the European powers for territory in all parts of Africa has continued with some few striking incidents. **Stanley** and Emin Pasha reached the coast at Zanzibar, December 4. The complete story of their proceedings reveals the probability that, for a generation at least, the equatorial provinces of Africa, if not the whole Soudan, are lost to civilization. The Mahdists have established an exceedingly powerful empire there. On the eastern coast, about Zanzibar, **German interests** have prospered well under the direction of Major Wissmann. The chief Bushiri, who was the principal obstacle to German progress inland, was captured and put to death December 15. Mwanga, the King of Uganda, on the shores of Victoria Nyanza, has won back his power, and has overthrown the Arab and anti-Christian party which drove him from the region. This revives the possibility of a railroad from the coast to the lake. Emin Pasha entered the German service in East Africa early in April, and immediately prepared to lead a large expedition inland to the great lakes. The English were exceedingly angry at what they deemed his ingratitude; for the rivalry between German and British interests in this region is very keen, and the English East African Company had been trying to secure him. — **A sharp collision between English and Portuguese** claims to territory in the Zambesi region occurred in November. The

Portuguese Major Serpa Pinto, undertaking to assert his authority along the upper course of the Zambesi, came in conflict with natives claimed to be under British protection. Though he easily conquered them, the intervention of the British government forced him to withdraw. [For the diplomatic negotiations, see **International Relations.**] The region at stake is the great interior territory between the Portuguese coast settlements about Mozambique on the Indian, and those about St. Paul de Loando on the Atlantic Ocean. A British South Africa Company was chartered in December to exploit this region. It is continuous with the territory under British influence north of the Transvaal, and extends to the shores of Lake Nyassa. — **The Italians in Abyssinia** have made enormous progress. Early in November a protectorate was declared over a considerable length of coast, and about the same time a treaty was made with Menelik, guaranteeing Italy's support against Ras Alula, his rival for the throne and an old enemy of the Italians. A month later Ras Alula was totally defeated, and Menelik, as recognized King, acknowledged the protectorate of King Humbert's government over all Ethiopia. This puts Italy in a very prominent position among the powers in Africa and opens up possibilities of successful attack from the east on the Mahdists at Khartoum. A tendency among the English to resent the great progress of Italy in this region was met by a declaration of Premier Crispi, March 6, that the two governments were in cordial agreement about African affairs. — **The French in Dahomey** were attacked by the native King in the first week in March. The King refused to recognize the French protectorate over the coast. Desultory hostilities have been in progress ever since, the French government not wishing to make any positive conquest of the territory.

**SOUTH AMERICA.** — By far the most important political event on this continent during the last six months has been **the revolution in Brazil.** There had long been a strong republican sentiment in the empire, but it was generally believed that the existing constitution would last as long as Dom Pedro II lived. The establishment of the republic was a complete surprise and seems to have taken place rather as the development of a military mutiny than as the result of a deliberately planned *coup d'état*. On the morning of November 15 the imperial ministry undertook to carry out a plan of transferring certain disaffected regiments of the regular army from Rio Janeiro to distant parts of the empire. The troops refused to obey orders and were headed in their mutiny by General Deodoro da Fonseca. The other regular forces in the capital joined with the insurgents, as did also the *quasi*-military bodies of police and firemen. In a short time the ministers found themselves helpless and sent in their resignations to the Emperor. Dom Pedro, having been summoned in haste from his suburban palace at Petropolis, undertook to form a new ministry, but without success. Meanwhile the insurgents made him a prisoner in his city palace and cut off all intercourse with the outer world. The leaders of the rebels then, in conjunction with the chief republicans of the capital, organized a ministry of their own and proclaimed the republic. On the 16th Dom Pedro was notified that the presence of himself and family in the country was incompatible with the new order, and at three o'clock in the morning of the 17th the whole imperial family was put on board a steamer for Portugal, which immediately left the port under escort of a man-

of-war. No blood was shed in the affair except in the case of Baron Ladario, the minister of Marine, who was severely wounded in attempting to quell the mutiny. The provisional government was organized as follows: Fonseca, President; Loba, Interior; Bocayuva, Foreign Affairs; Barboza, Finance; Campos Salles, Justice; Constant, War; Vanderholtz, Marine; and Ribero, Agriculture. A decree was issued by this body proclaiming the republic under the name of the United States of Brazil, the former provinces to form the states and to be united by federation. Governors duly appointed for the states were directed to preserve order and to administer local affairs, pending the action of a constituent assembly which should provide finally for the new government. With only a slight disturbance in a single city, the provinces gave in their adhesion to the new régime. Foreign governments were assured that the engagements of the imperial government would be faithfully maintained, and by the end of November the most perfect outward tranquillity prevailed in both the internal and external affairs of the transformed nation. For the elections under the republican system the provisional government, on November 21, decreed that the suffrage should be extended to all citizens able to read and write. Dom Pedro reached Lisbon with his family December 7, and was warmly received by the Portuguese court. He declared his willingness to return to Brazil if summoned, but renounced all intention to favor movements for restoration by force. The cash donation which the republicans offered him he declared he would not accept.—On December 21, a decree was issued by the provisional government fixing the date of the elections for the constituent assembly for September 15, and the meeting of that body for November 15, 1890. The same decree revoked the cash grants to Dom Pedro and also his civil list, and forbade the return of any of his family for two years. In January the separation of the church from the state was decreed. Both federal and state authorities were prohibited to do any acts establishing any religion, and the patronage, resources and prerogatives of all religious institutions were extinguished.—The ex-Empress of Brazil died suddenly at Oporto, December 28th.—**Peru** concluded in January a settlement with her English bondholders on terms which, if fairly carried out, promise much for the future prosperity of the country. To cancel the bonds, the government turned over to the holders, represented by a New York firm of contractors, all the railways of the state for a term of sixty-six years, and the product of its guano beds up to 3,000,000 tons. Extensive privileges are conceded to favor the development and improvement of the railroads and to facilitate the exploitation of the guano deposits. The government pays in addition £80,000 annually for thirty-three years.—**The Argentine Republic** has been suffering from a trying financial crisis. Depreciated paper currency and wild-cat banking are reported to be the causes of the difficulty. The long-standing *Misiones* boundary difficulty with Brazil and Uruguay was definitely terminated by treaty in January.—**The Panama Canal** has been made the subject of a thorough examination by a committee of French engineers, whose conclusions will definitely determine, in all probability, the question of its completion.

**MEXICO AND CENTRAL AMERICA.**—As regards its general social and industrial development, **Mexico** seems to have entered upon a definite career of progress. A congress of delegates from the different states



met at the capital in December on invitation from the President, and spent some days in discussing projects for the improvement of the educational facilities of the nation. Very great activity has been manifested in chartering banks and railways. Foreign capitalists have competed hotly for promising concessions. A contract was signed in November by the government providing a subsidy of \$50 per head for every able-bodied negro colonist from the United States settled permanently on public land in certain designated Mexican states. Congress met April 1. The message of President Diaz reported a good state of the finances and general internal prosperity. — The plan of **Central American Union**, formulated by a convention of delegates from the five states at San Salvador in October, was approved in the course of the next two months by Guatemala, Honduras and San Salvador. Costa Rica is confidently expected to give her assent through her congress in June. The plan provides for the preliminary steps toward a permanent federal union, by constituting a common executive for the administration of all the foreign affairs of the five states. The executive consists of a chief, chosen annually from each of the republics in turn, and a council of five, one member from each state. The sovereignty of each republic in domestic affairs is retained, but each is so to modify its laws in reference to commerce and other common interests as to favor ultimate union. It is provided that the plan shall go into effect between those ratifying it on the 15th of September, 1890, and that by 1900, if not before, a constituent assembly shall be summoned to complete the central organization by the addition of a legislature and a judicial body. Nicaragua is inclined to oppose the project on account of the fear that she may have to share with the rest some of the special advantages she expects to gain from the canal. — **The Nicaragua Canal** is reported to be making good progress, though the work as yet is in the preliminary stages.

WM. A. DUNNING.